

question should not be considered closed by either party. Mr. Mantell had lately found a letter from Professor Owen to his father, enclosing the professor's first paper on the moa, and he says that there is less information in it regarding the moa than he (Mr. Mantell) could obtain at that time from many-natives on the beach.

2. "Notes on the Larger Species of *Paryphanta* in New Zealand, with some Remarks on the Distribution and Dispersal of Land-shells," by W. T. L. Travers, F.L.S. (*Transactions*, p. 224.)

Sir J. Hector had a number of the Picton shells alive for some time; he did not think they were carnivorous. He thought we had only two species, and the difference in colour depended on the colour of the trees on which they live.

Mr. Hudson said this was a most interesting and instructive paper.

Mr. Travers, in reply, said what he wished to call attention to was the wide distribution of these shells, which had not been sufficiently considered in making collections.

3. "On a Method of Cure in Germ-diseases," by R. J. Barnes.

Dr. Teare said it was an ingenious paper; but he was afraid there were several points in it that would not be agreed to by the profession. Mr. Barnes was unfortunate in selecting typhoid fever as the disease to be cured, as that recurred.

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SEVENTH MEETING: 5th September, 1894.

Mr. C. Hulke, Vice-President, in the chair.

The Chairman announced that the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science would hold their next meeting at Brisbane, on the 11th January, 1895, and the usual concessions would be made by the shipping companies and the railways to members visiting.

*Papers.*—1. "Note on the Aurora Australis, as observed at Karori, Wellington, on the 20th August, 1894," by G. V. Hudson, F.E.S.

ABSTRACT.

The author first noticed this aurora at 7 p.m. as a strong whitish light along the southern horizon, somewhat resembling the earliest traces of the dawn. This light steadily increased, gradually forming itself into a shaded arch, which extended from the south-east to the south-west. Below this arch the sky appeared extremely dark, as if heavily clouded, but this was evidently merely the effect of contrast; because he noticed not only Canopus, but several fainter stars, shining with undiminished brilliancy beneath the arch during the whole of the display. As the aurora progressed the arch gradually rose in the heavens. At 8 p.m. the first bright streamers appeared, and were most numerous to the westward. Above and amongst the streamers were glowing patches of the most beautiful rose-colour. The aurora was now a magnificent spectacle, its light being sufficient to render all the leading features of the landscape clearly discernible, and large print could be read with little difficulty. Shortly before 9 p.m. the dull light of the moon could be seen in the